I CLAIM:

1. A computer program product comprising a computer program operable to control a computer to process received e-mail messages, said computer program comprising:

(i) filter downloading logic operable to download filter data from a remote source, said filter data specifying a plurality of tests that may be used to identify unwanted e-mail messages;

(ii) e-mail filtering logic operable to receive an e-mail message and to apply said plurality of tests to identify unwanted e-mail messages; and

(iii) unwanted message reporting logic operable to allow reporting to a filter data generator a new unwanted e-mail message received and not identified by said plurality of tests such that said filter data may be updated to identify said new unwanted e-mail message.

2. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said e-mail filtering logic uses a scoring algorithm to identify a received e-mail message as a potentially unwanted e-mail message.

3. A computer program product as claimed in claim 2, wherein said scoring algorithm is responsive to identification of predetermined words within said received e-mail message and a message size of said received e-mail message.

4. A computer program product as claimed in claim 2, wherein said scoring algorithm is responsive to an addressee list of said received e-mail message.

5. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein a received e-mail message identified as a potentially unwanted e-mail message is forwarded to its addressee together with a prompt for said addressee to provide feedback as to whether or not said received e-mail message is an unwanted e-mail message.

6. A computer program product as claimed in claim 5, wherein said potentially unwanted e-mail message is forwarded encapsulated within a markup language document providing voting buttons to allow said addressee to provide said feedback.

7. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, further comprising test creating logic operable to allow creating of a new test to be added to said tests provided by said filter data.

8. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said computer program arranged to receive and process e-mail messages before they reach an associated target e-mail server.

9. A computer program product comprising a computer program operable to control a computer to process received e-mail messages, said computer program comprising:

(i) e-mail filtering logic operable to receive an e-mail message and to apply at least one test to identify a received e-mail message as a potentially unwanted e-mail message; and

(ii) message forwarding logic operable to forward said potentially unwanted e-mail message to its addressee together with a prompt for said addressee to provide feedback as to whether or not said received e-mail message is an unwanted e-mail message.

10. A computer program product as claimed in claim 9, wherein said potentially unwanted e-mail message is forwarded encapsulated within a markup language document providing voting buttons to allow said addressee to provide said feedback.

11. A computer program product as claimed in claim 9, wherein said message filtering logic is operable to add a new test to those applied to said received e-mail messages in dependence upon said feedback.

12. A computer program product comprising a computer program operable to control a computer to provide downloadable filter data for identifying unwanted e-mail messages, said computer program comprising:

(i) user report receiving logic operable to receive a user report of an unwanted e-mail message received by said user of said downloadable filter data; and

(ii) filter data updating logic operable in response to receipt of one or more of said user reports to modify said downloadable filter data to add a test to identify a new unwanted e-mail message.

13. A method of processing received e-mail messages, said method comprising:

(i) downloading filter data from a remote source, said filter data specifying a plurality of tests that may be used to identify unwanted e-mail messages;

(ii) receiving an e-mail message and applying said plurality of tests to identify unwanted e-mail messages; and

(iii) reporting to a filter data generator a new unwanted e-mail message received and not identified by said plurality of tests such that said filter data may be updated to identify said new unwanted e-mail message.

14. A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein at least one of said plurality of tests uses a scoring algorithm to identify a received e-mail message as a potentially unwanted e-mail message.

15. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said scoring algorithm is responsive to identification of predetermined words within said received e-mail message and a message size of said received e-mail message.

16. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said scoring algorithm is responsive to an addressee list of said received e-mail message.

17. A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein a received e-mail message identified as a potentially unwanted e-mail message is forwarded to its addressee together with a prompt for said addressee to provide feedback as to whether or not said received e-mail message is an unwanted e-mail message.

18. A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said potentially unwanted e-mail message is forwarded encapsulated within a markup language document providing voting buttons to allow said addressee to provide said feedback.

19. A method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising creating of a new test to be added to said tests provided by said filter data.

20. A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said step of receiving occurs before said e-mail messages reach an associated target e-mail server.

21. A method of processing received e-mail messages, said method comprising the steps of:

(i) receiving an e-mail message and to apply at least one test to identify a received e-mail message as a potentially unwanted e-mail message; and

(ii) forwarding said potentially unwanted e-mail message to its addressee together with a prompt for said addressee to provide feedback as to whether or not said received e-mail message is an unwanted e-mail message.

22. A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said potentially unwanted e-mail message is forwarded encapsulated within a markup language document providing voting buttons to allow said addressee to provide said feedback.

23. A method as claimed in claim 21, further comprising adding a new test to those applied to said received e-mail messages in dependence upon said feedback.

24. A method of controlling a computer to provide downloadable filter data for identifying unwanted e-mail messages, said method comprising the steps of:

(i) receiving a user report of an unwanted e-mail message received by said user of said downloadable filter data; and

(ii) in response to receipt of one or more of said user reports, modifying said downloadable filter data to add a test to identify a new unwanted e-mail message.

25. Apparatus for processing received e-mail messages, said apparatus comprising:

(i) a filter downloaderc operable to download filter data from a remote source, said filter data specifying a plurality of tests that may be used to identify unwanted e-mail messages;

(ii) an e-mail filter operable to receive an e-mail message and to apply said plurality of tests to identify unwanted e-mail messages; and

(iii) an unwanted message reporterc operable to allow reporting to a filter data generator a new unwanted e-mail message received and not identified by said plurality of tests such that said filter data may be updated to identify said new unwanted e-mail message.

26. Apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein said e-mail filter uses a scoring algorithm to identify a received e-mail message as a potentially unwanted e-mail message.

27. Apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein said scoring algorithm is responsive to identification of predetermined words within said received e-mail message and a message size of said received e-mail message.

28. Apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein said scoring algorithm is responsive to an addressee list of said received e-mail message.

29. Apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein a received e-mail message identified as a potentially unwanted e-mail message is forwarded to its addressee together with a prompt for said addressee to provide feedback as to whether or not said received e-mail message is an unwanted e-mail message.

30. Apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein said potentially unwanted e-mail message is forwarded encapsulated within a markup language document providing voting buttons to allow said addressee to provide said feedback.

31. Apparatus as claimed in claim 25, further comprising a test creator operable to allow creating of a new test to be added to said tests provided by said filter data.

32. Apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein said apparatus is arranged to receive and process e-mail messages before they reach an associated target e-mail server.

33. Apparatus for processing received e-mail messages, said apparatus comprising:

(i) an e-mail filter operable to receive an e-mail message and to apply at least one test to identify a received e-mail message as a potentially unwanted e-mail message; and

(ii) a message forwarder operable to forward said potentially unwanted e-mail message to its addressee together with a prompt for said addressee to provide feedback as to whether or not said received e-mail message is an unwanted e-mail message.

34. Apparatus as claimed in claim 33, wherein said potentially unwanted e-mail message is forwarded encapsulated within a markup language document providing voting buttons to allow said addressee to provide said feedback.

35. Apparatus as claimed in claim 33, wherein said message filter is operable to add a new test to those applied to said received e-mail messages in dependence upon said feedback.

36. Apparatus for providing downloadable filter data for identifying unwanted e-mail messages, said apparatus comprising:

(i) a user report receiver operable to receive a user report of an unwanted e-mail message received by said user of said downloadable filter data; and

(ii) a filter data updater operable in response to receipt of one or more of said user reports to modify said downloadable filter data to add a test to identify a new unwanted e-mail message.